(iii) Census of minor irrigation schemes,

(iv) Command Area Development Programme,

(v) Encouraging irrigation through the use of sprinklers/drip systems, hydrams, water turbines, man or animal operated pumpsets, and

(vi) Scheme for rectification of diesel pump sets.

Facilities under the above schemes are available to all States. Assam is at present availing facilities under the Schemes at (i) to (iv).

**Ground Water Irrigation Schemes in Assam**

1500. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Assam has tremendous ground water potential and the proper exploitation of this potential may bring about dynamic change in the agricultural scenario of the State; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to examine the prospect of ground water irrigation scheme in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The utilisable ground water resources for irrigation in Assam is estimated to be of the order of 1.99 m. ha.m./yr. The Brahmaputra valley in Assam is underlain by regionally extensive fresh water aquifers capable of providing ground water supplies through suitably designed tubewells to command 50 hectares of irrigated agriculture per tubewells.

(b) Minor Irrigation schemes, including ground water schemes, are planned, funded and executed by the State Government themselves from their own budgetary resources. Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for North Eastern States, the Central Government provides a 50 per cent matching Central assistance for purchase of machinery and equipment and expenditure on staff for strengthening of the State Ground Water/ Minor Irrigation Organisations. Under this scheme, Central assistance of Rs. 120.027 lakh has been released to the Government of Assam during the first three years of the 7th Five Year Plan.

1501. *[Transferred to the 12th May, 1988]*

**Discussion on making Darjeeling a Centrally-Administered Territory**

1502. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a discussion in the Home Ministry on Darjeeling for making the Darjeeling areas a Centrally-administered territory in view of the ever-increasing turmoil and tension coupled with the gap in understanding between the West Bengal Government and the Gorkha insurgents; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?